



Equity Advisory Committee

September 12, 2023





Call to Order

Vanessa Santamaría-Dainton

Language Access

- EAC materials are available online in Spanish
- Should participants require Spanish interpretation, members of our team are available and can launch the interpretation channel on zoom



Public Comments

- Sign-up on [Google Form](#) before meeting
- During meeting -- type the word "*casa*" in chat bar or use the "raise hand" Zoom feature
- 20 minutes total for Public Comment. 2 minutes per speaker. Please say your name before making comment
- For other agenda items, co-chairs will announce if public commentary is designated for that part



Meetings Minutes

Sachi Edson



Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes
5.2.23 Meeting



Public Comment

Vanessa Santamaría-Dainton





Navarro ECHS Spotlight

Tech Girls

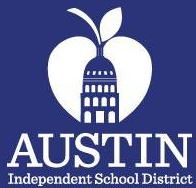
Student: Favour Okotie Oghenetega

Teacher/Sponsor: Felipe Trimino

Teacher/Co-Sponsor: Jessica Googins

Navarro Tech Girls





Update on EAC Structure & New Members

Office Of Equity

Welcome New Members!

- Amanda Stocks - AISD Parent
- Amber Watts - AISD Parent
- Amy Moore - Community Member
- Cynthia Haws Rice - AISD Staff (Rosedale School)
- Felipe Trimino - AISD Parent & Teacher (Navarro ECHS)
- Jennifer Graf - AISD Librarian (Ortega ES)
- Raquel Colón - AISD Parent





88th Legislative Session

Edna Ramón Butts

Director, Intergovernmental Relations & Policy
Oversight



Appropriations

HB 1- General Appropriations

- \$17.6 billion for property tax relief
- \$3.2 billion for projected enrollment
- \$2.4 billion increase in golden penny yield
- \$60 million for Instructional Facilities Allotment
- \$5 billion for Public Education (set aside only)
- \$300 million for school safety
- \$1.6 billion for TRS retirees
(13th check and COLA)
- \$588 million to TRS Health Care
(not applicable to AISD)



Leadership's Education Priorities

- ✓ Cutting Property Taxes (passed 2nd Called Session)
- ✗ Expanding school choice (vouchers, ESAs)
- ✓ School Safety
 - Parental Rights
- ✗ Teacher Compensation
 - Accountability/Assessments



Library Books – HB 900



- **Library Standards:** Requires the Texas State Library & Archives Commission to adopt mandatory standards for school library collections by Jan. 1, 2024 for:
 - Campus libraries
 - Classroom libraries
 - Online catalogues
- **Book Vendors:** Must rate materials “sexually explicit” or “sexually relevant” and cannot sell such books to schools
 - **“Sexually explicit”** = describes, depicts or portrays sexual conduct in a way that is patently offensive
 - **“Sexually relevant”** = describes, depicts or portrays sexual conduct
 - Issue recall for books rated sexually explicit



Library Books – HB 900

- School Districts must:
 - Review the content of sexually relevant-rated material and determine whether to retain the book
 - Post on district website each title having sexually relevant material, its decision regarding the material, and where it's located
 - Obtain parental consent for a student to check out sexually relevant books
- Key Dates
 - TSLAC to adopt standards no later than **Jan. 1, 2024**
 - Vendors submit list to TEA of books containing sexually explicit or sexually relevant material by **April 1, 2024**
 - Districts to conduct initial content review and submit initial report to TEA by **Jan. 1, 2025**
 - No later than Jan. 1 of each odd-numbered year districts to review library material
- Lawsuit – Federal district judge issued temporary injunction to halt enforcement



HB 3 – School Safety

- Board shall determine the appropriate number of armed security officers for each district campus
- Must ensure that *at least one armed security officer is present during regular school hours at each district campus*. Armed security officer:
 - school district police officer
 - school resource officer, or a commissioned peace officer employed as security personnel.
- **Good Cause Exception:** If board is unable to comply, the board may claim a good cause exception from the requirement to comply if the district's noncompliance is due to the availability of:
 - funding; or
 - personnel who qualify to serve as a security officer



Austin ISD Police Officers

- Currently have 80 officers
- Preparing to hire 75 new officers – one officer per school, with administrative discretion to assign additional officers based on size, campus needs.
- \$5.8 million annual cost
- State allocated \$15,000 per campus
- Increased School Safety Allotment by 28 cents, from \$9.72 to \$10.00
- All District personnel who regularly interact with students must complete mental health training
- At least 25% must complete training before beginning of 2025-26 SY 25% more each year thereafter; 100% to be completed before beginning of 2018-29 SY



Assessment

- Paper Testing – HB 1225
 - Allows up to 3% of students in a district to take state assessments in paper format at the parent's request
 - First come, first serve; exception from the 3% limit for ARD, but not for 504
- Alternative Assessment Dates for Religion – HB 1883
 - Districts must provide alternative assessment dates for students who are absent on the dates that assessments are administered due to a religious holy day



Accelerated Instruction – HB 1416

- HB 4545 “Clean-up”
- Hours reduced to 15 hours per subject (down from 30 hours) for students who did not perform satisfactorily on a state assessment
- Cannot require a student to do AI in more than 2 subjects per year, prioritizing math and ELA
- Tutor-student ratio increased to 1:4 (from 1:3)
- Not required to provide AI to students who do not attend school on campus
- Parents can opt out of AI or choose to reduce the requirements
- Accelerated learning committees eliminated



Instructional Materials – HB 1605

- TEA to create open resource instructional materials program for district use
- District to post and provide parent access to instructional materials
- Funding incentive for use of state-developed/approved materials - \$40 per enrolled student vs. \$20 for non-state developed material
- Three-cueing prohibited
- Many more provisions (pp. 25-28, Summary)



Health & Drug Awareness

- **Opioid Antagonists** (SB 629) - Schools to develop policies & training about administering opioid antagonists at grades 6 – 12 and may expand to grades below 6.
- **Fentanyl Prevention & Awareness** (HB 3908) – Requires districts to provide annual researched-based fentanyl abuse prevention and poisoning to students in grades 6-12. SHAC shall recommend curriculum regarding dangers of opioids, including fentanyl.
- **Seizures** (SB 1506) – TEA to develop a form to be used in submitted a seizure management and treatment plan. No later than Dec. 1, 2023.
- **COVID** – Governmental entities may not mandate masks, vaccines or order closure of businesses or schools. (SB 29)



Chaplains – SB 763

- Allows District to employ chaplains or accept chaplains as volunteers to provide students support, services, and programs assigned by the Board.
- Chaplains not required to be SBEC certified.
- Policy GKC (LOCAL) permits volunteers in schools.



Student Absences

- HB 1212 – Absences for Religion – Districts may not require documentation from a clergy member or religious leader to excuse a student from attending school to observe a religious holy day.
 - Parent note is sufficient
- SB 68 – Absences for Career Investigation – Allows up to 2 excused absences for juniors and seniors to visit a professional at the professional's workplace
- Effective SY 2023-2024



Repeat Grade or Course – HB 3803

- Parent/guardian may choose for their child to repeat a grade level up to grade 8 (rather than the current grade 3)
- Parent/guardian of a high school student could elect for the student to repeat any course from the previous school year, unless the school district determined the student had met all the requirements for graduation [subject to subsection (c)]
 - *(c) If a school district disagrees with an election authorized under this section, the school district must convene a retention committee and meet with the parent or guardian to discuss retention. A meeting shall be conducted in person unless an alternative means is agreeable to the parent or guardian. A student may not be retained for a grade or retake a course under this section if the parent or guardian does not meet with the retention committee.*
- Effective beginning with 2023-24 SY



Discipline for Marijuana, THC, E-Cigarettes – HB 114

- Marijuana, THC, E-Cigarettes related offenses are a **mandatory** DAEP placement. Includes:
 - E-cigarette or comparable device
 - Consumable liquid solution
- If DAEP is at capacity, student must be placed in ISS
- If DAEP is at capacity, student who has been placed for this offense to move out and be placed in ISS to make room in DAEP for student who has committed violent offense
- If position comes open at DAEP before expiration of the student's placement, student must be transferred back to DAEP.



Behavioral Threat Assessment – Parental Rights

- HB 473 - Campus threat assessment team must notify parent before conducting a threat assessment
- Parent has opportunity to participate (in person or remotely) and submit information about the student
- After threat assessment, team must provide parent the team's finding and conclusions and be provided a copy
- SB 1720 – staff members can anonymously report suspected threats to the threat assessment team



Dyslexia Evaluations & Services – HB 3928

- Identifies dyslexia as a specific learning disability under IDEA
- Must provide parents a form developed by TEA if a student is suspected or the District has reason to suspect that the student may have dyslexia and may be a child with a disability
- Must provide parents with information regarding the student's progress from receiving dyslexia instruction at least once each grading period.



Technology – Social Media & Electronic Devices

- SB 1893 bans certain apps from devices owned by a governmental entity
- Specifies TikTok and allows governor to add other apps to the list by proclamation



- HB 18 – TEA to adopt standards for permissible electronic devices and software applications used by a school district
- District to work with parents as partners in cybersecurity and safety before transferring an electronic device to a student
- “Electronic device” means a device that is capable of connecting to a cellular network or the internet, including computer or a tablet



What's Next?

- House Select Committee on Educational Opportunity & Enrichment issued its report August 11, 2023
- Possible special session in October on vouchers/ESAs; school finance (Oct. 9 or 10?)
- How to follow:
 - Raise Your Hand Texas
 - Texans for Public Education
 - Coalition for Public Schools
- QUESTIONS?

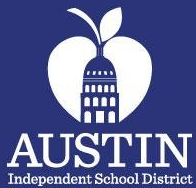




Special Education Update

Equity Advisory Committee
TEA Correspondence and Updates
September 12, 2023





Gifted & Talented Updates

Dr. Elizabeth Severance
Director of Advanced Academics

Summary of District-Wide GT Services

- **Elementary**
 - Students are scheduled in GT Cluster Groups with a GT trained teacher
- **Secondary**
 - Students will select an Advanced Course in the area they are identified as gifted
 - STEM: Math & Science
 - Humanities: ELA & Social Studies



District-Wide GT Structures

- **GT Advocate**
 - Designated by the principal
 - Oversees GT assessment and screening process and GT services/training on campus
 - Leads GT Campus Committee
- **Annual Assessment & Screening**
 - Student Referral
 - Parent & Teacher Observations
 - Assessments- CogAT & NNAT



Javits Grant

- 5-year federal grant received in 2022 to improve GT identification and services:
 - Nonverbal 2nd grade Universal Screener
 - Increased professional development and training for staff
 - Family outreach and engagement
 - Improved curriculum extensions and enhancements
 - 3 Grant funded GT Specialists



New this year

- **One district-wide GT Referral Link**
 - With support to GT Advocates to collect referrals in multiple ways
- **Online Parent and Teacher observation forms**
 - Paper copies will still be available
- **2nd grade nonverbal universal screener**
 - 2nd grade teachers will administer in their classroom
 - ALL students (even identified GT) will participate to help establish local norms



GT Equity

- **TEA State Plan**: “The population of the gifted/talented services program is closely reflective of the population of the total district and/or campus” (2.25)
- **TEA Representation Index**
 - Goal is 0.8 or higher



Equity in GT

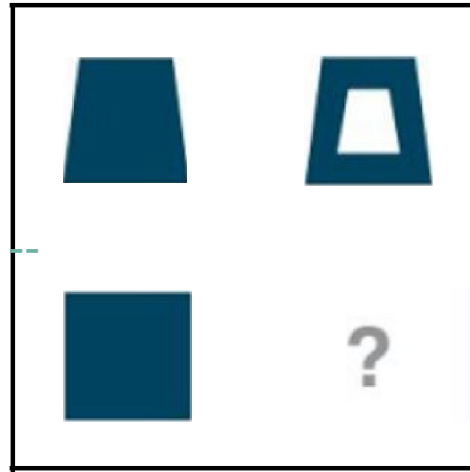
Austin ISD: Special Populations Grades K-12 2022-2023			
Special Population	Representation Index 09.05.2022	Green-Increased Yellow-No Change Red-Decreased	Representation Index 05.05.2023
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.33		0.56
Asian	1.93		1.94
Black or African American	0.63		0.63
Hispanic/Latino	0.69		0.69
White	1.41		1.39
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.40		0.60
Two or More Races	1.55		1.62
Special Education	0.26		0.26
Dual Language	0.64		0.74
Economic Disadvantage	0.58		0.58
504	1.13		1.00



2nd grade Universal Nonverbal Screener



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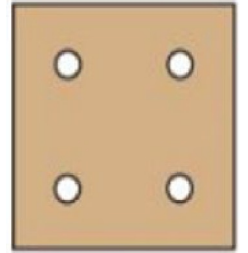
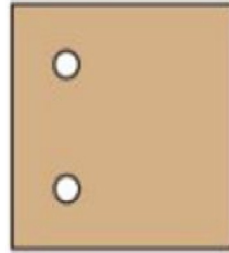
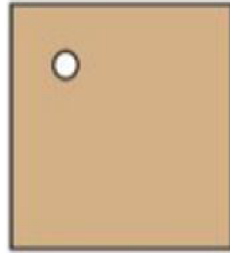
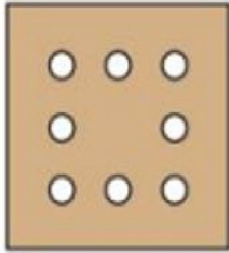
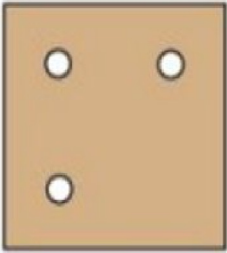
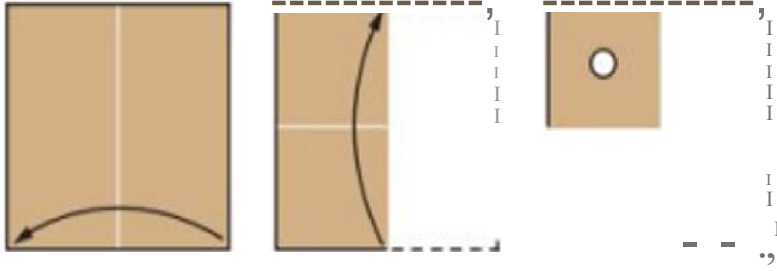


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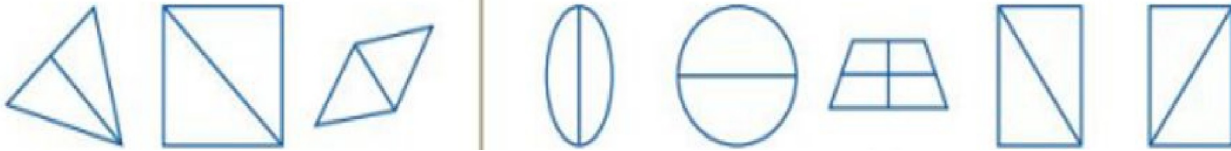
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Gifted & Talented Team

advancedacademics@austinisd.org

- Elizabeth Severance, Director
- Blake Haygood, GT Coordinator
- Victoria Kelly, AP & IB Coordinator
- Stefanie Torres, GT Specialist
- Tina Mowrey, GT Specialist
- Kate Galinat, GT Specialist
- Delaine Canales, Data Processor
- Vivi Alvarado, Admin Assistant





EAC Reflective Discussion

Sachi Edson



Optimistic Closure and Adjournment

Vanessa Santamaría-Dainton